

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 19 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 20-21, and 23-24 as follows:

Claim 1-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A biochip reader as recited in claim 24 ~~49~~ includes a positioner coupled to said glass holder for positioning said bioarray within a field of view of said optical system.

21. (currently amended) A biochip reader as recited in claim 24 ~~49~~ includes an optical fiber fan formed by said optical fiber bundle proximate to a side of said glass substrate carrying said bioarray, said optical fiber fan defining a line of optical fiber faces of said plurality of optical fibers.

22. (original) A biochip reader as recited in claim 21 includes a divergent diffuser separating said optical fiber faces from an edge of said glass substrate, said divergent diffuser protecting said optical fibers from mechanical damage.

23. (currently amended) A biochip reader as recited in claim 24 ~~49~~, wherein said plastic springs member is formed of a ~~Velcro~~ pressure sensitive VELCRO® brand fastener material .

24. (currently amended) A biochip reader ~~as recited in claim 19~~ includes comprising:

an illumination source,

a glass substrate carrying a bioarray;

an optical fiber bundle directing said light from said illumination source to one

side of said glass substrate; said optical fiber bundle including a plurality of optical fibers;

a reflector positioned proximate to another side of said glass substrate spaced apart from said fiber optic fan; said reflector for reflecting outgoing light back into said glass substrate

an optical system;

a glass holder supporting and aligning said glass substrate carrying the bioarray with said optical system, and

said glass holder including a plastic springs member in contact engagement with said glass substrate with low contact forces for positioning said bioarray in a focal plane of said optical system.